IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of the claims replaces all earlier listings and all earlier versions.

1. (Previously Presented) A method of editing a video sequence comprising at least one clip, each clip having a determinable duration, said method comprising the steps of:

extracting characteristic data associated with each clip from the sequence, the characteristic data including at least time data related to the corresponding duration;

processing the characteristic data according to at least one template of editing rules to form editing instruction data, the editing rules comprising at least a predetermined cutting format configured to form edited segments based on a plurality of predetermined segment durations; and

processing the video sequence according to the editing instruction data to form an edited sequence of the edited segments.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the cutting format provides for the formation of the edited segments each comprising one of at least a first duration and a second duration and for the discarding of at least a portion of each clip.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein the first duration is between 1 and 8 seconds and the second duration is between 2 and 20 seconds.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein the first duration is about 4 seconds and the second duration is about 10 seconds.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein the edited sequence is formed from a time sequential combination of the segments based upon a predetermined cutting pattern formed using segments of the first duration and the second duration.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein the predetermined cutting pattern comprises alternate first duration segments and second duration segments.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein an initial interval of a predetermined (third) duration is discarded from each clip prior to formation of the edited segments from a remainder of the clip.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein said third duration is between 0.5 and 2 seconds.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein an internal interval of a predetermined (fourth) duration is discarded from at least one of the clips from which at least two of the edited segments are to be formed, the internal interval separating portions of the clip from which the two edited segments are formed.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the fourth duration is between 1 and 5 seconds.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the formation of the edited segments comprises cutting the segments from the clips.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein the formation of the edited segments comprises cutting a portion from at least one of the clips and modifying a reproduction duration of the portion to correspond with one of the first duration or the second duration.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein the cutting and modifying are performed when the portion has a reproduction duration within a predetermined range of one of the first and second durations.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13, wherein the predetermined range is from 70% to 200% of the one of the first and second durations.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein the modifying comprises multiplying the reproduction time of the portion by a predetermined factor and cutting the modified portion to one of the first or second durations.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein the editing rules comprise an edited duration during which the edited segments are to be reproduced and from which a number of the edited segments is determined based upon the first and second durations.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the segment durations are determined using a beat period of a sound track to be associated with the edited sequence.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the characteristic data comprises data accompanying the video sequence.

19. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the editing rules ~~includes~~ include incorporating at least one title matte as part of the edited sequence.

20. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 19, wherein the title matte is formed and incorporated according to a sub-method comprising the steps of:

examining the time data for each clip to identify those of the clips that are associable by a predetermined time function, the associable clips being arranged into corresponding groups of clips;

identifying at least one of a beginning and a conclusion of each [[roup]] group as a title location;

for at least one title location, examining at least one of corresponding time data and further characteristic data to generate the insert title including at least a text component; and

incorporating the insert title into the sequence at the title location.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium, having a program recorded thereon, where the program is configured to make a computer execute a procedure to edit a video sequence comprising at least one clip, each said clip having a determinable duration, said program being configured to implement the steps of:

extracting from the sequence characteristic data associated with each the clip, the characteristic data including at least time data related to the corresponding duration;

processing the characteristic data according to at least one template of editing rules to form editing instruction data, the editing rules comprising at least a

predetermined cutting format configured to form edited segments based on a plurality of predetermined segment durations; and

processing the video sequence according to editing instruction data [[the]] to form an edited sequence of the edited segments.

23. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 22, wherein the cutting format provides for the formation of the edited segments each comprising one of at least a first duration and a second duration and for discarding of at least a portion of each clip, and wherein an initial interval of a predetermined (third) duration is discarded from each clip prior to formation of the edited segments from a remainder of the clip.

24. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 23, wherein the first duration is between 1 and 8 seconds, the second duration is between 2 and 20 seconds, and the third duration is between 0.5 and 2 seconds.

25. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 23, wherein an internal interval of a predetermined (fourth) duration is discarded from at least one of the clips from which at least two of the edited segments are to be formed, the interval separating portions of the clip from which the two edited segments are formed, the fourth duration being between 1 and 5 seconds.

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 22, wherein the formation of the edited segments comprises cutting the segments from the clips.

27. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 23, wherein the formation of the edited segments comprises cutting a portion from at least one the clip and modifying a reproduction duration of the portion to correspond with one of the first duration or the second duration.

28. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 27, wherein the cutting and modifying are performed when the portion has a reproduction duration within a predetermined range of one of the first and second durations, the predetermined range being from 70% to 200% of the one of the first and second durations.

29. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 27, wherein the modifying comprises expanding the reproduction time of the portion by a predetermined factor and cutting the modified portion to one of the first or second durations.

30. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 23, wherein the editing rules comprise an edited duration during which the edited

segments are to be reproduced and from which a number of the edited segments is determined based upon the first and second durations.

31. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 23, wherein the edited sequence is formed from a time sequential combination of the segments based upon a predetermined cutting pattern formed using segments of the first duration and the second duration, the predetermined cutting pattern comprising one of alternate first duration segments and second duration segments or a pseudo-random selection of first duration segments and second duration segments.

32. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 22, wherein the segment durations are determined using a beat period of a sound track to be associated with the edited sequence.

33. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 22, wherein the characteristic data comprises data selected from the group consisting of:

data accompanying the video sequence; and

data formed by analysing the video sequence, the analysing comprising at least one of time analysis, image analysis, sound analysis and motion analysis.

34. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 22, wherein the editing rules includes incorporating at least one title matte as part of the edited sequence, the title matte being formed and incorporated according to a sub-method comprising the steps of:

examining the time data for each clip to identify those of the clips that are associable by a predetermined time function, the associable clips being arranged into corresponding groups of clips;

identifying at least one of a beginning and a conclusion of each [[roup]] group as a title location;

for at least one title location, examining at least one of corresponding time data and further the characteristic data to generate the insert title including at least a text component; and

incorporating the insert title into the sequence at the title location.

35. (Previously Presented) A visual image editing system comprising:

supply means for providing a video sequence comprising at least one clip, each said clip having a determinable duration;

extracting means for extracting from said sequence characteristic data associated with each said clip, said characteristic data including at least time data related to the corresponding said duration;

processing means for processing said characteristic data according to at least one predetermined template of editing rules to form editing instruction data, said editing

rules comprising at least a predetermined cutting format configured to form edited segments based on a plurality of predetermined segment durations, said cutting format providing for the formation of said edited segments each comprising one of at least a first duration and a second duration and for discarding of at least a portion of each said clip, and wherein an initial interval of a predetermined (third) duration is discarded from each said clip prior to formation of said edited segments from a remainder of said clip;

editing means for editing said video sequence according to said editing instruction data to form an edited sequence of said edited segments; and

output means for receiving said edited sequence.

36. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 35, wherein said supply means comprises a storage arrangement configured to couple said video sequence to said extraction means and said output means comprises at least one of a display device by which said edited sequence is viewable and a further storage arrangement for storing said edited sequence.

37. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 36, wherein said characteristic data comprises metadata, said extracting means forming a metadata file of said video sequence based upon each said clip, said metadata file forming an input to said processing means, at least said processing means comprising a computer device operable to interpret said metadata file according to said rules to form said edit instruction data.

38. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 35, wherein said first duration is between 1 and 8 seconds, said second duration being between 2 and 20 seconds and said third duration is between 0.5 and 2 seconds and an internal interval of a predetermined (fourth) duration is discarded from at least one of said clips from which at least two of said edited segments are to be formed, said internal interval separating portions of said clip from which said two edited segments are formed, and said fourth duration being between 1 and 5 seconds.

39. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 35, wherein said editing means comprises means for cutting a portion from at least one said clip and modifying a reproduction duration of said portion to correspond with one of said first duration or said second duration.

40. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 39, wherein said cutting and modifying are performed when said portion has a reproduction duration within a predetermined range of one of said first and second durations, said predetermined range being from 70% to 200% of said one of said first and second durations.

41. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 39, wherein said modifying comprises expanding the reproduction time of said portion by a predetermined factor and cutting the modified portion to one of said first or second durations.

42. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 35, wherein said processing means comprises a store of said editing rules, one of said editing rules comprising an edited duration during which said edited segments are to be reproduced and from which said processing means is configured to determine a number of said edited segments based upon said first and second durations.

43. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 35, wherein said editing means forms said edited sequence from a time sequential combination of said segments based upon a predetermined cutting pattern formed using segments of said first duration and said second duration.

44. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 43, wherein said predetermined cutting pattern comprises one of alternate first duration segments and second duration segments and a pseudo-random selection of first duration segments and second duration segments.

45. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 35, wherein said editing rules comprise incorporating at least one title matte as part of said edited sequence, said system further comprising means for forming and incorporating said title matte into said edited sequence, said means for forming and incorporating comprising:

associating means for examining said time data for each said clip to identify those of said clips that are associable by a predetermined time function, said associable clips being arranged into corresponding groups of clips;

identifying means for identifying at least one of a beginning and a conclusion of each said group as a title location;

characteristic data examining means for examining, for at least one said title location, at least one of corresponding said time data and further said characteristic data to generate said insert title including at least a text component; and

means for incorporating said insert title into said sequence at said title location.

46. (Previously Presented) A method of editing a video sequence comprising a plurality of individual clips and associated data including at least time data related to a real time at which the clip was recorded, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) examining the time data for each clip to identify those of the clips that are associable by a predetermined time function, the associable clips being arranged into corresponding groups of clips;

(b) identifying at least one of a beginning and a conclusion of each group as a title location;

(c) for at least one the title location, examining at least one of corresponding time data and further data to generate an insert title including at least a text component; and

(d) incorporating the insert title into the sequence at the title location.

47. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 46, wherein the predetermined time function comprises associating any two sequential clips within a group when the period between the real-time conclusion of one of the clips and the real-time commencement of the following clip is less than a predetermined (first) duration.

48. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 46, wherein the further data comprises user provided data.

49. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 46, wherein the further data comprises generated data formed by analysing the corresponding clip and step (c) comprises examining the data to select from a rule-based group of alternatives at least one title component from a title database, the title components collectively forming the insert title.

50. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 49, wherein the title components are selected from the group consisting of individual words and phrases, the title components being configured for selection in response to a rule-based examination of the data.

51. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 50, wherein the title database comprises a plurality of typeset configurations applicable to the title components to modify a visual impact of the insert title.

52. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 49, wherein the title database comprises a graphical database of graphical objects configured for inclusion in the insert title.

53. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 46, wherein the insert title comprises a matte background permitting superimposition of the insert title upon the clip.

54. (Canceled).

55. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium, having a program recorded thereon, where the program is configured to make a computer execute a procedure to editing a video sequence comprising a plurality of individual clips and associated data including at least time data related to a real time at which the clip was recorded, said program being configured to implement the steps of:

(a) examining the time data for each the clip to identify those of the clips that are associable by a predetermined time function, the associable clips being arranged into corresponding groups of clips;

(b) identifying at least one of a beginning and a conclusion of each group as a title location;

(c) for at least one title location, examining at least one of corresponding time data and further data to generate an insert title including at least a text component; and

(d) incorporating the insert title into the sequence at the title location.

56. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 55, wherein the predetermined time function comprises associating any two sequential clips within a group when the period between the real-time conclusion of one of the clips and the real-time commencement of the following clip is less than a predetermined (first) duration.

57. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 55, wherein the further data comprises user provided data.

58. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 55, wherein the further data comprises generated data formed by analysing the corresponding clip and step (c) comprises examining the data to select from a rule-based group of alternatives at least one title component from a title database, the title components collectively forming the insert title.

59. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 58, wherein the title components are selected from the group consisting of individual words and phrases, the title components being configured for selection in response to a rule-based examination of the data.

60. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 59, wherein the title database comprises a plurality of typeset configurations applicable to the title components to modify a visual impact of the insert title.

61. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 58, wherein the title database comprises a graphical database of graphical objects configured for inclusion in the insert title.

62. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 55, wherein the insert title comprises a matte background permitting superimposition of the insert title upon the clip.

63. (Previously Presented) A system for editing a video sequence comprising a plurality of individual clips and associated data including at least time data related to a real time at which said clip was recorded, said system comprising:

associating means for examining said time data for each said clip to identify those of said clips that are associable by a predetermined time function, and for arranging associable ones of said clips into corresponding groups of clips;

identifying means for identifying at least one of a beginning and a conclusion of each said group as a title location;

examining means for examining, for at least one said title location, at least one of corresponding said time data and further data to generate an insert title including at least a text component; and

editing means for incorporating said insert title into said sequence at said title location.

64. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 63, wherein clips within each said group are sequentially associable by said predetermined time function and said predetermined time function comprises associating any two sequential clips within a group when the period between the real-time conclusion of one said clip and the real-time commencement of the following said clip is less than a predetermined (first) duration.

65. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 63, wherein said further data comprises user provided data.

66. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 63, wherein said further data comprises generated data formed by analysing the corresponding said clip and said examining means examines said data to select from a rule-based group of alternatives at least one title component from a title database, said title components collectively forming said insert title.

67. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 66, wherein said title components are selected from the group consisting of individual words and phrases, said title components being configured for selection in response to a rule-based examination of said data.

68. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 67, wherein said title database comprises a plurality of typeset configurations applicable to said title components to modify a visual impact of said insert title.

69. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 66, wherein said title database comprises a graphical database of graphical objects configured for inclusion in said insert title.

70. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 63, wherein said insert title comprises a matte background permitting superimposition of said insert title upon said clip.

71. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said one template is selected from a plurality of templates each comprising different combinations of editing rules.